(c) whether Government have called for a detailed report from Indian Embassy in Kuwait;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action in the matter in the interest of Indian Construction workers in Kuwait; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian workers employed in Hyundai Construction Company, a Korean firm in Kuwait, went on a strike after one of their colleagues was hit by a Korean Safety Supervisor when the Indian worker reportedly tried to get some water from the main supply tank after break-down of water supplies to the labour camp.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) When Indian Embassy at Kuwait came to know about the incident it immediately contact the management of Company, the Indian workers including the affected Indian worker, Shri Nisar Ahmed who was in the hospital, Regular liasion with hospital authorities was kept to ensure that proper medical attention was extended to him. A police case has also been registered against the concerned Korean Safety Supervisor, which is under investigation by the area administration. The Korean employee is on bail. Indian Embassy is pursuing the matter with the police authorities. The company has also expressed their deep regrets in writing for this unfortunate incident. The Indian Embassy is following up the case to ensure that the safety and dignity of the Indian workers is maintained.

(e) and (f) The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has already taken up the matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Kuwait.

India's share in export of Agricultural Products

1873. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) India's share in World export trade in agricultural products;

(b) whether the total volume of farm exports is still very low; if so, the details of items exported; and

(c) the steps to boost farm exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The world trade in agricultural commodities is estimated to be about US$300 billion. During 1994-95 exports of agricultural commodities (excluding tea, cofee, raw cotton and marine products) were valued at Rs. 7049.04 crores (US$ 2247 million). The agricultural commodities exported include Basmati and Non-basmati rice, tobacco, spices, cashew, oilmeals, Guar Gum and fruits and vegetables. The details of the agricultural commodities exported are given in the Foreign Trade Statistics published by the DGCI&S, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Steps taken to enhance export of agricultural products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provisions of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

अखबारी कागज की आयात संबंधी नीति

1874. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1995-96 में अखबारी कागज के आयात के लिये अभी तक कोई आयात नीति घोषित नहीं की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने अखबारी कागज के आयात के लिये कोई नीति तैयार की है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या इस नीति के अन्तर्गत लघु और मझोले दर्जे के समाचार पत्रों के हितों को ध्यान में रखा गया है, और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम्): (क) से (घ) अखबारी कागज के आयात के लिए दिनांक 1 मई, 1995 से मुक्त रूप से अनुमति दे दी गई है। मुक्त रूप से आयात की यह सुविधा लघु एवं मध्यम श्रेणी के समाचार पत्रों को भी उपलब्ध है। इसके अलावा, अखबारी कागज नियंत्रण आदेश, 1962 की अनुसूची-1 में उल्लिखित मिलों के वार्षिक उत्पादन का 1/3 हिस्सा लघु एवं मध्यम श्रेणी के उन समाचार पत्रों के लिए निर्धारित किया गया है जिनकी वार्षिक जरूरत 200 एमटी तक है।

अमरीकी कानूनों का उल्लंघन करने वाले देशों के खिलाफ एकतरफा प्रतिबन्ध

1875. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी**: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को विश्व व्यापार में अमरीकी कानूनों का उल्लंघन करने वाले देशों पर एकतरफा प्रतिबन्ध लगाने का पूरा-पूरा अधिकार है; और

(ख) इस संबंध में सरकार का रवैया क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम्): (क) जी, नहीं। विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यू टी ओ) के विवाद निपटान प्रावधानों के अनुसार किसी सदस्य द्वारा किसी अन्य सदस्य से रियायतें वापस लिए जाने से पहले बहुपक्षीय प्राधिकार प्राप्त करना होगा। वे विवादों के निपटान में एकपक्षीय व्यापार कार्रवाई को प्राधिकृत नहीं करते हैं। डब्ल्यू टी ओ के विवाद निपटान प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन करने की कोई भी व्यापार कार्रवाई बहुपक्षीय संधि के प्रावधानों के अनुरूप नहीं होगी।

(ख) भारत की हमेशा यह राय रही है कि व्यापार संबंधी मामलों पर कोई एकपक्षीय कार्रवाई नहीं होनी चाहिए, बल्कि ऐसे मामलों को किसी स्थापित विवाद-निपटान तंत्र के जरिए हल किया जाना चाहिए।

Review panel on Super Bazar

1876. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to setup a review panel on Super Bazar;

(b) if so, what is the composition of this panel and norms laid down by Government in this regard;

(c) whether MP's would be included in the said panel; and

(d) by when the review panel is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Attendance of official nominees

1877. SHRI M. RAJASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official nominees on the Committees of Administration or Managing Committees of Export Promotion Councils including Federation of Indian Export Organisations attend the meetings regularly;

(b) if so, the details of attendance during the last three years of each such Government nominee on such Committees;

(c) the action taken in the matter in cases of irregular attendance; and

(d) whether such Government nominees are required to submit reports to Government regarding Para 150 of the Import Policy and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the details of attendance of Government nominees on all EPCs including FIEO is given in Annexure-I (See appendix 174, annexure no. 52)

(c) Question does not arise, as the attendance is not irregular and moreover there is no provision in the Constitutions of EPC's including FIEO in this regard.

(d) The Government nominees are not required to submit specific reports to the Government regarding para 150 of the Export-Import Policy, as by attending the meetings of the different Committees on which they are Members, they ensure that the Councils are functioning in accordance with the objectives